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08-20-04

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO.: IST.01USU1

IFW



IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Mark L. Iske et al.

Serial No.: 10/646,968

Examiner:

Filing Date: August 22, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3732

Title: Spring-Actuated, Retractable-Bladed Surgical Scalpel

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

(X) under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of international application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)

() under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:

() Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or

() a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

() under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with a:

() Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and

() a petition under 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2)(ii), and

() a \$130.00 petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1)
(Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee)

() A check in the amount of \$ _____.00 is enclosed herewith.

() Please charge to Deposit Account #50-1491 the amount of \$ _____.00.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1491 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

(X) Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Citation together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

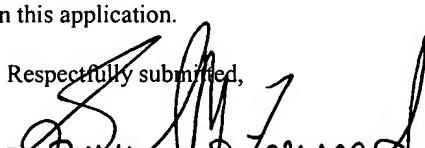
() A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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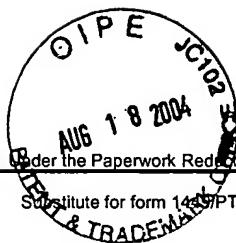
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/646,968
Filing Date	August 22, 2003
First Named Inventor	Mark L. Iske
Art Unit	3732
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	IST.01USU1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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